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CTS Freight and Logistics Symposium proceedings published

The summary report of our seventh annual Freight and Logistics Symposium, held December 5, 2003, is now available. The symposium was sponsored by CTS, Mn/DOT, and the Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee, in cooperation with the Council of Logistics Management Twin Cities Roundtable and the Metropolitan Council.

Supply chain management now part of U of MN's Transportation Studies Certificate

CTS has added a third program track, supply chain management, to core course offerings for the Graduate Certificate Program in Transportation Studies. Students may choose from courses in civil engineering, planning and public policy, and supply chain management to fulfill the program's core course requirements.

Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee winter meeting recap

The Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee met February 5, 2004, for its quarterly meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota.

MFAC's action plan for 2004 calls for the committee to recommend investment needs for the Minnesota Department of Transportation's proposed fiscal year '06-'07 budget, to review and recommend priorities for the State Freight Plan, and to recommend changes to the Metropolitan Council's freight policy and program selection criteria. **Ron Lifson**, MFAC chair, expressed the need for the group to understand the public policymaking process and take advantage of opportunities to provide input.

Carolyn Jones, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce transportation policy director, briefed the committee on the efforts of the Minnesota Transportation Coalition, consisting of 220 members, to define a vision and provide a funding solution for Minnesota's transportation problems. The chamber is gathering input from businesses around the state and expects to release the results in September 2004. The MFAC will invite Jones to present the chamber's vision at its fall 2004 meeting.

In reviewing the impact MFAC has already had on Mn/DOT priorities, **Randy Halvorson**, Mn/DOT program management division director, described MFAC-supported program proposals that were included in Mn/DOT's budget. The department's budget was submitted to the governor, who made modifications. The budget is currently being considered by the legislature.

MFAC members provided suggestions about the freight needs of the state. **Dan Beagan**, of Cambridge Systematics, and **Ferrol Robinson**, of SRF Consulting Group, Mn/DOT consultants for developing a first-ever statewide freight plan, presented an overview of the plan tasks and facilitated an MFAC discussion to prioritize statewide freight needs. The Plan will be completed by the end of the year with opportunity for additional MFAC feedback.

Requests for involvement in two important planning studies were presented to MFAC. **Jim Barton**, senior planner with the Metropolitan Council, requested that MFAC members help craft the freight policy for the Council's 2030 transportation policy plan. Mn/DOT's **Brian Isaacson** briefed the committee on where they might help bring a freight perspective to the update of the Mn/DOT transportation systems plan for the Twin Cities metro area.

MFAC is a partnership between government and business to exchange ideas and recommend policy and actions that promote safe, productive, and sustainable freight transportation in Minnesota. For more information, contact Bill

Supply chain management symposium

The [Center for Supply Chain Research](#) at the University of Minnesota is hosting a symposium on supply chain management in process industries May 6-7, 2004.

The objective of the symposium is to bring attention to supply chain problems and research opportunities specific to the process industry, including chemical manufacturing, food processing, oil refining, steel manufacturing, and the pharmaceutical industry. Although process industries make up a large share of the manufacturing sector, they have benefited less from recent advances in supply chain research than industries with discrete manufacturing.

There is no registration fee but prior registration is required. Additional information will be available from the conference Web site at www.ie.umn.edu/cscr.

New professional development opportunities from FHWA and NHI

The [Federal Highway Administration](#) has launched the Freight Professional Development Program to assist state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations in dealing with the increasing flow of freight on the nation's transportation system. The program consists of four major elements—training, technical assistance, a resource library, and education. The Web site is located at: www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight.

Two specific components of the Freight Professional Development Program include a monthly seminar series and a freight planning electronic discussion list. Talking Freight, the monthly seminar series, is available at www.fhwa.dot.gov/freightplanning/talking.htm. Recent seminar topics include the trucking industry in the future, freight and economic development, and perspectives from freight transportation users.

The complementary Freight Planning Peer Exchange listserv allows discussion of the topics covered in the Talking Freight seminars and other issues. It is also available at www.fhwa.dot.gov/freightplanning/index.htm. Read more details in the February 2004 issue of the *Research & Technology Transporter* at www.tfrc.gov/trnspr/feb04/index.htm#planning.

Transportation Services Index will measure importance of transportation to the economy

In January, the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) announced creation of the Transportation Services Index (TSI), a new economic indicator designed to measure the contribution of freight and passenger traffic to the economy. The index, which is seasonally adjusted, combines data on freight traffic, as well as passenger travel, that have been weighted to yield a consistent monthly measure.

The freight measures in the TSI include for-hire trucking and parcel services, freight railroad services, inland waterway traffic, pipeline movements, and air freight. The passenger transportation measures are local transit, intercity passenger rail, and air passenger transportation. The first TSI numbers were released in March. See www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml for more information on this new indicator.

The Freight Story: A National Perspective on Enhancing Freight Transportation – New from FHWA

The [Federal Highway Administration](#), in cooperation with the [U.S. Department of Transportation's](#) other modal administrations, and the Secretary's [Office of Intermodalism](#), produced a summary report that describes the current state of freight transportation, looks at its impact on the economy, and identifies key challenges to the industry, as well as strategies to improve productivity and security. View the report online at www.itsdocs.fhwa.dot.gov/JPODOCS/REPTS_TE/13688.html.

GeoFreight: The Intermodal Freight Display Tool CD

The [U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#) and the [Federal Highway Administration](#) have released a freight display tool that uses a routing model to assign data on freight flows to various components of the transportation network. GeoFreight: The Intermodal Freight Display Tool is a prototype that displays geographic relationships between freight movements and infrastructure. The tool also assists freight policymakers and planners in identifying the flows of domestic and international freight across the nation and in assessing the current and potential major freight bottlenecks in the U.S. transportation system.

To order your free copy of this two-CD set, please visit www.bts.gov/pdc/user/products/src/products.xml?p=704&c=-1

Measuring Personal Travel and Goods Movement, New from TRB

The Transportation Research Board published Special Report 277, *Measuring Personal Travel and Goods Movement: A Review of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' Surveys*, which reviews the BTS' major surveys, including the Commodity Flow Survey, and makes recommendations for changes and enhancements. The full report is available online at <http://books.nap.edu/html/SR277/SR277.pdf> (1.8 MB PDF).

Integrating Freight Facilities and Operations with Community Goals, New from TRB

The Transportation Research Board published a National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) synthesis report, *Integrating Freight Facilities and Operations with Community Goals: A Synthesis of Highway*

Practice (NCHRP Synthesis 320). This report examines the increasing need to balance freight transportation needs with community goals, specifically for air, water, truck, and rail freight facilities and operations. It profiles practices and examples of how to balance freight and community goals, and provides a list of practices by freight mode.

The full report is available online at http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/nchrp/nchrp_syn_320.pdf (4.6 MB)



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